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The Town of Aylmer.

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THE thriving town of Aylmer is situated in the county of Elgin, Province of Ontario, 12 miles east of St. Thomas, the county seat, and 8 miles from the shores of Lake Erie. It is surrounded by as fine a section of farming country as can be found anywhere on earth, and is much more prosperous and progressive than many towns of much greater population. The pure clear air for which the south-western counties of Ontario are so justly celebrated, is nowhere purer or better than here, cleanliness prevails everywhere, there is an abundance of the purest and best spring water, and it is no wonder that the place is an unusually healthy one. It is well within the memory of many of our older citizens when this whole section was a wilderness of forests, with here and there a little clearing, where stood the "new" log house which gave shelter to the hardy pioneers whose sons and daughters are now living on fine farms, in good comfortable houses, many of them large and imposing brick structures, with all modern conveniences. Aylmer is their trading point, and most of them take as much pride in the town as do our own citizens. Could some of these early pioneers, on whose memory too much honor cannot be bestowed, come back here now, what a change they would see.

Railway facilities are good, the G. T. R. and M. C. R. giving competition in freight, and splendid passenger accommodation to all parts.

Early Settlement

We quote from Page's Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Elgin, issued in 1877, as follows, regarding the early history of the place: "Up to the year 1830 there was but slight claim to the title of village. The northwest corner across the creek was occupied by the log house of Mr. John Vanpatter. Mr. Norris, the tanner, lived not far from the residence of Samuel York, Esq. The southwest corner was the farm of the widow Vanpatter, and the old log house with the rude-looking old-fashioned log verandah in front, occupied the site of the present Town Hall. The southeast corner was taken up by Mr. Dakins, and a little east on the street lived David Adams, and the northeast corner lot, first bought by Noah Davis, had in the early times various owners. In 1830 John W. Beemer, Esq., now living at his residence among the trees one mile west of Aylmer, and for many years a magistrate in the vicinity, erected the first building for a general store—Hodgkinson & Keith were the first merchants; this store was on the site of Mr. Arkell's brick building, and was burned in 1858. In 1833 James Adams started a tailor shop—R. Mott a harness shop, and in 1834 Nathan L. Wood built the frame hotel now occupied by Hiram Brown, Esq. Mr. Clayton bought the southeast corner farm, and his son, the late and highly respected Peter Clayton, opened a small store on the south side. The Aylmer fires have from time to time swept away all of the old buildings except the corner hotel and James Adams' tailor shop, now the residence of William Monteith. The old red house of Mrs. Norris after escaping by a scorching in 1863, yielded at the second sweeping of Martin and Nairn's corner in 1874.

The village was first called Troy, but this was the name of an American city, and in those stirring times just before the rebellion of 1837 we may well imagine feelings of strict loyalty on the one side and a desire for reform or independence on the other, were carried to a pitch amounting to bitter contention in nearly all matters. In 1835 a meeting was held in Caswell's wagon shop to decide upon a name for the place. A majority were in favor of Troy, but the name Aylmer, from Lord Aylmer, then Governor General, was in some manner sent to the Post Office Department. It is a good name however, the only inconvenience being that there is in the Dominion a much larger Aylmer, a city in Quebec, and mail matter often finds its way there by mistake. The post office was established in 1837, and Philip Hodgkinson was its keeper from this date until 1875.

Roads were bad, and money scarce. Mr. Brown tells of a mud hole west of Aylmer that reached to Orwell, of an almost impassible swamp east, and of corduroy south. Philip Hodgkinson describes the currency as a bundle of shingles (split and shaved), a hundred feet of pine boards, or a bushel of wheat as \$1.00 Malahide currency, which was worth 75 cents in store pay or 50 cents in cash, and usage and necessity legalized this for a time. The early merchants were John and Philip Hodgkinson—Mr. Keith—Peter Clayton—Wood and Waring—and Wood and Kirkland. In 1854 Martin and Nairn went into business, and at about the same time the Murrays, and Arkell and Campbell; James Little, Esq., also sold goods in his brick building, south side for a time."

The small place, so interestingly described in the foregoing lines, has grown steadily since that time, and is to-day a good live town of about 2,500 inhabitants, with broad clean streets, (the principal ones being block paved), lined on either side with beautiful rows of maple trees, fine granolithic and stone sidewalks, splendid brick churches, school houses, business places, hotels, and private residences, a perfect and adequate system of water works, an up to date electric light plant, both arc for streets, and incandescent for inside use. The very highest class of schools, from Kindergarten to Collegiate Institute, good Opera House and Town Hall, in fact most of the conveniences, necessities, and luxuries of a city, some of which are described further on, making Aylmer a most desirable place in which to live.

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Manufacturing Interests

While not primarily a manufacturing town, Aylmer has a number of institutions that would be a credit to any city in Ontario. First in the list is the Aylmer Canning Factory. This factory was established first in 1879 by a joint stock company of the business men of the town. It did not succeed very well, and in 1883 was bought by Messrs. T. M. Nairn, D. Marshall, and G. I. Walker. Mr. Walker sold his interest to the two former in 1886, since which time it has steadily and surely advanced and increased both in extent and in public favor, until the present time, and with its branch factory in Hamilton, it is no doubt the largest institution of its kind in Canada. This institution now covers several acres of ground, and has a working and storage floor space of about 35,000 square feet. The

buildings are all of modern construction, and contain everything that is new and up to date in the way of machinery. It is lighted by electricity, heated by steam, and has all conveniences. A large branch factory has been established in Hamilton, which runs principally on small fruits and tomatoes. While the output from the factory here consists of corn, peas, beans, apples, (evaporated and canned), jams, jellies, chicken, duck, turkey, pigs feet, tongue, tomato catsup, and chicken soup—small fruits are also put up here. The number of hands employed here, runs from 150 to as high as 400 in the busiest seasons and from 120 to 200 in Hamilton. The output last year was in the neighborhood of 1,700,000 cans. As high as 40,300 cans have been put up in one day at the factory here. This factory of necessity makes a big cash market for farm produce, puts a lot of money in circulation, and gives employment to many women and children as well as men. Its goods have a world wide reputation, and are shipped to all parts.

The Aylmer Roller Mills, of which Mr. Stephen Pierce is proprietor, has a capacity of 100 barrels per day. The mill has a 40,000 bushel elevator in connection, and does a large export, as well as local trade. It has both water and steam power, and a spur line will soon be run direct to the mill from the G. T. R. Mr. Pierce is also proprietor of the other roller mill in town, which does a large custom and local trade. Space will not permit a lengthened account of many of these industries, although there are several more that are worthy of special mention, among them being the Aylmer Pork Packing Establishment, owned and operated by McCausland & Ogilvie, who handle all the hogs brought to them at any season of the year, either alive or dressed, according to the season. They pay out in cash to the farmers of this section from \$90,000 to \$125,000 a year for hogs, and from \$60,000 to \$75,000 for cheese. The Aylmer Iron Works, L. L. Sheldon & Son, Proprietors, do a large foundry, machine and repair business, manufacturing as well, the celebrated Anderson spray and force pump. Briefly mentioned there are others as follows, many of which do business on a large scale :

A. Boughner,—staves, hoops and saw mill.

James McNally,—hard wood staves and general cooperage.

A. McKenzie & Co.,—sash, doors, and builders' supplies.

Chas. Price,—sash, doors, and builders' supplies.

Geo. M. Smith,—sash, doors, and builders' supplies.
 Kinsey & Gillott,—cider factory.
 E. N. Draper,—leather nets, suspenders, etc.
 J. T. Rowe,—organs.
 John Lowe,—organs.
 J. N. Winder,—ginger ale, cream soda, etc.
 T. H. Collins,—plaster centre pieces, corners, etc.
 Light Bros.,—brick.
 Kaizer & Son,—coopers.
 Hutchinson & Thomson, marble works.

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Mercantile Interests.

No town in Canada the size of Aylmer can boast of larger or better stores than Aylmer. The business portion of the town has been destroyed by fire several times, and it has been built up again with handsome brick buildings, and there is not now a single frame or dilapidated looking building in the main business portion of the town. Its merchants are alive and up to date in everything. The stocks carried by many would do credit to a city, and it is a rare thing that anyone has to go out of town for either a necessity or a luxury. A glance through the pages of this book will give some idea of the size and quality of our places of business. Briefly outlined they are as follows :

DRY GOODS, &c.—J. M. Farthing, Simpson & Case, and Youell & Wrong.

DEPARTMENTAL.—The N. P. Finch Co., and Poustie, Stewart & Burgess.

GROCERIES AND CROCKERY.—R. G. Moore, Young & Caven.

GROCERIES.—S. Barrett, J. G. Heiter, B. Tibbitts & Son, D. W. Turnbull, and Miss Bothwell.

HARDWARE AND TINWARE.—W. Conn, J. H. Glover, Wright & Allen.

FURNITURE.—A. J. Anderson, A. Cronk, J. Palmer.

BAKERS & CONFECTIONERS.—F. C. Freemantle, F. A. Tufford.

HARNESS.—W. Buchanan, R. M. Corey.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Christie & Caron, Cronk & Rusling.

GENTS' FURNISHING.—Christie & Caron.

WOOLLEN GOODS AND TWEEDS.—S. S. Clutton.

MERCHANT TAILORS.—W. Dorling & Son.

DRUGS.—E. A. Caughell, J. E. Richards.

BOOKS AND STATIONERY.—E. A. Caughell, C. J. Gundry & Co.

JEWELRY.—C. J. Gundry & Co., J. H. Walker, G. F. Carey.

MUSIC STORE.—Evans Brown.

PHOTO ARTISTS.—P. A. Brooking, W. F. Charlton.

FLOUR AND FEED, COAL, ETC.—J. E. Scott.

BUTCHERS.—W. Cartwright, W. T. Hare, McKenney & McGregor, Trim Bros.

BARBERS.—J. Bishop, M. Learn, Ostrander & Matthews, W. H. Walsh.

Almost all other lines of business are fully represented here. Mr. Peter Richardson has a large grain warehouse at the G. T. R. station. J. B. Hambidge does a large cold storage business, being one of the heaviest egg and apple exporters in Ontario. Carriage makers, blacksmiths, laundries, etc., etc.

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Hotels and Livery.

Aylmer has four as good hotels as could be wished for, viz: The Brown House, John Wallace, Proprietor; Central Hotel, Frank Donley, Proprietor; Mansion House, F. H. Trim, Proprietor, and the Mero House, James Herendeen, Proprietor. They range in price from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day, and are all large brick buildings, conducted in first-class style. Two livery stables, where any kind of a turnout can be secured on short notice at reasonable prices. Pierce & Son have been established here for twenty years, and conduct a thirty-five horse stable, one of the largest in Western Ontario. B. A. Johnson is also a first-class livery man, and does a large business.

Churches.

There is probably not a finer lot of churches to be found on the continent in a place of this size. The interior and exterior views in this book do not give a fair idea of their size and beauty. The Baptist and Methodist Churches each have a seating capacity of 800 in the auditorium. Each has a fine basement, and the Methodist has also fine school and class rooms in the rear. Trinity church and Knox church are handsome brick structures with fine roomy basements. All the churches are lighted with incandescent lamps, and all are handsome, well furnished and attractive within as well as without. The citizens of Aylmer are a church going people, and large audiences turn out on Sunday to listen to eloquent discourses. The denominations represented are :

BAPTIST—Rev. C. H. Kimball, Pastor.

DISCIPLES—Rev. R. W. Ballah, Pastor.

EPISCOPALIAN—Rev. J. W. J. Andrew, Pastor.

METHODIST—Rev. Jas. Livingstone, Pastor.

PRESBYTERIAN—Rev. W. H. Anderson, Pastor.



Educational Interests

This place has a wide reputation for its schools. At the present time there are upwards of 400 scholars in attendance at our Public Schools. Eight teachers are employed, exclusive of the Kindergarten department, where there are two assistants besides the regular teacher. Mr. C. T. Burdick is the principal of the school, and has with him a very efficient staff. The Kindergarten Department is under the charge of Miss S. Glover, and it is fully equipped for the work, and is located in a fine large room, being one of the institutions of which we are proud. The schools occupy a full block, giving plenty of room for a play ground. There are two fine, large, imposing looking buildings, and the lawns and flower beds in front, and on either side, which are well kept, add much to the appearance of the whole. The Public School staff is as follows: C. T. Burdick, Principal; Miss Mary Arnold; Miss Alice Arnold; Miss Annie Mor-ton; Miss Mabel Wickett; Miss N. Inglis; Miss N. Sowler; Miss L. McCausland. Director Kindergarten-

ten, Miss S. Glover ; assistants, Miss G. Hutchinson and Miss M. Faulds. The Aylmer Collegiate Institute is known throughout the Province, and holds a position second to none for work performed during the past, under the careful management of W. W. Rutherford, B. A., who has been head master since 1883. The school has steadily advanced, and at the mid-summer examinations has on several occasions ranked from first to third in the Province. Citizens of Aylmer have in the Collegiate an institution where they can educate their children up to, and including the first year university course, and they are proud of it. The High School was first established here in 1873 or '74, and only seven passed the first entrance examination. Five girls and two boys, the latter being Boliver S. Brown, and D. H. Price. Twelve or thirteen others were allowed to go in, making the school up to about twenty. A building was erected on the public school grounds in 1875, and occupied in 1876, but the school outgrew this building in a short time, and the present fine building was erected in 1886. It was made a Collegiate Institute in 1890. The grounds have been pronounced by the Gov't Inspector as perhaps the finest in the Province, and the lawns are beautifully kept. Two large cannon, weighing 4,000 pounds each, are mounted in the front lawn. They were obtained from the Dominion government, are dated 1806, and were brought to Canada for use during the war of 1812. The teaching staff is W. W. Rutherford, B. A., Principal, mathematics ; J. M. Cole, Specialist, science and commercial ; J. C. Clarke, B. A., Classics ; Miss F. G. Phelps, B. A., English ; Miss E. Stewart, B. A., French and German.

Under this head we must also mention the Public Library, which is located in large and handsome rooms in the very centre of the town, and is largely patronized. It was first established as a Mechanics Institute on Nov. 9th, 1874, with the following officers : President, R. C. Wright ; Vice President, J. J. Clutton ; Secretary, S. S. Clutton ; Treasurer, D. Stewart ; Directors, Dr. McLay ; L. J. Gundry ; J. E. McDonald ; T. M. Nairn ; and T. T. Mann. It was made a free Public Library in 1890, and contains now over 3,000 volumes of the best authors, and all the best magazines and literature of the day are to be found on its tables from week to week. The whole is absolutely free to all our citizens. The rooms are open on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings, and Saturday afternoon, and are largely patronized especially by the young people. The present Board of Directors is as follows : W. S. Caron, chairman, G. M. Standing, sec.-treas., Mayor Nairn, Geo. Youell, T. Wooster, H. P. McMahon, and D. H. Price.

Municipal History

Aylmer was incorporated as a Village in 1871. The first meeting was held in the old Baptist Church on the 18th day of December, 1871, for the purpose of nominating candidates for Reeve and Councillors, with John H. Cronk as Returning Officer. Philip Hodgkinson was the acting Clerk. Thomas M. Nairn was elected Reeve by acclamation. The following councillors were elected, Daniel Stewart, 85 votes; Andrew Murray, 68; John H. Arkell, 64; and Amasa Lewis, 63. Other nominees were, Aaron Price, T. T. Mann, Dr. Foote and G. I. Walker. T. M. Nairn was re-elected Reeve in 1873, and J. H. Arkell, D. Stewart, J. C. Weisbrod, and William Hale as Councillors. The first meeting of this Council in 1873, was held at the Commercial Hotel kept by John Tibbits. Meetings at this time were held bi-monthly. In the year 1874, T. M. Nairn was re-elected Reeve, D. Stewart, G. I. Walker, J. C. Weisbrod and Aaron Price, as Councillors. L. J. Gundry and James Finnie were appointed Auditors of the accounts. J. A. McCausland was appointed to ring the bell on Saturday nights at the magnificent salary of \$5 per year. The year 1875 brought no change in the reeveship, T. M. Nairn still holding down the chair, with G. I. Walker, D. Stewart, A. Murray, and J. C. Weisbrod, as councillors. L. J. Gundry and Mr. W. A. Glover were appointed as Auditors, this being the first mention of the late, much lamented Squire Glover. At this time there were six taverns. H. J. Brown, J. W. Smith, Sydney Parker, Alfred Nickerson, Massena Hubbard, and David Ferguson, with two shop licenses, T. T. Mann and W. J. Kerr. In the year 1876, W. F. Ellis was appointed Clerk. T. M. Nairn re-elected Reeve in 1876, the Councillors were Jehiel Yorke, J. C. Weisbrod, Aaron Price and D. Stewart. The first meeting was held in the town hall as at present. The first High School was finished in 1875 and first occupied this year, it now doing duty as the lower rooms of our public school. Thomas M. Nairn was again re-elected Reeve in the year 1877, with Edward Walker, Jehiel Yorke, R. C. Wright and J. C. Weisbrod, as councillors. The assessor for this year was Wm. Rushmer, and we find the name of our present collector, J. A. McCausland mentioned in that capacity for the first time with his salary fixed at \$30. James Garrett was the village treasurer at a salary also of \$30.

The year 1878 shows a very close election for Reeve, between D. Stewart, who received 128, and T. M. Nairn 121 votes. The Council were Jehiel York, R. C. Wright, P. W. McLay and J. H. Arkell. At

the beginning of the year W. A. Glover was appointed Clerk. The last minutes of the Council signed by the Reeve, D. Stewart, are dated 20th September, 1878, after which R. C. Wright acted as chairman until the close of the year. T. M. Nairn was again chosen by acclamation to fill the Reeve's chair in January 1879, with P. W. McLay, W. W. White, R. C. Wright and J. H. Arkell as Councillors, but W. W. White at once handed in his resignation, and an election between J. C. Weisbrod and J. J. Clutton resulted in favor of the former by seven votes. In this year the Council divided into five committees for the first time for working purposes, viz: Indigent, finance, fire and water, sanitary and Town Hall committees. W. M. Lyon, assessor. The election of 1880 brought on McLay and J. H. Arkell for Reeve, with the result that McLay was elected, and the first mention of any Municipal Councillor now occupying a seat, is in the person of Moses Leeson, who with John Dennis, G. M. Smith and J. C. Weisbrod constituted the Council Board for this year. The election of January 1881 resulted in the people choosing P. W. McLay over Jehiel York as Reeve, and W. R. Farthing, M. Leeson, G. M. Smith and R. C. Wright as Councillors; Farthing got 200 votes, the largest ever cast for Councillor, up to this time. The election of 1882 showed a tie between P. W. McLay and J. C. Weisbrod for Reeve, which was given by the vote of the Returning Officer, W. A. Glover, to Weisbrod. The Council consisted of C. W. Clark, Moses Leeson, G. M. Smith and R. C. Wright. The first block pavement on Talbot Street was completed this year. In 1833 J. C. Weisbrod was again elected Reeve over R. C. Wright; the Council consisting of Dr. Sinclair, W. M. Lyon, M. Leeson and Dr. High. A loan of \$60,000 was made at this time for the purpose of assisting by way of bonus to promote the establishment of the Aylmer Canning and Evaporating establishment. Owing to the death of J. C. Weisbrod, S. S. Clutton was called to fill the vacancy. S. S. Clutton was elected Reeve in 1884 over P. W. McLay, with our present worthy Councillor for No. 3 Ward, J. M. Huffman, heading the list of Councillors with 224 votes, T. C. Wright, W. C. Bingham and G. R. Christie as balance of Council, Huffman's vote being the largest ever cast for a Councillor up to this time. This year witnesses the construction of the waterworks, with James A. Bell, C. E., as consulting engineer, which were largely extended by the present engineer, Alex. Milne in 1887. The first cost in 1884 was raised by Debentures, the amount being \$9,000. Our High School this year only cost the town the sum of \$150. A new

departure in the election for 1885 is shown in the choice by acclamation of the whole Council, S. S. Clutton being elected Reeve; T. C. Wright, J. Huffman, G. R. Christie and W. C. Bingham Councillors. Our present bailiff, Mr. Milne, received his appointment on Feb. 3rd. A bonus of \$5,000 was carried to assist Messrs. McDiarmid and Price in the manufacture of hubs, spokes and bent stuff. A vote was taken and carried on the 11th August, 1885, for the purpose of raising the sum of \$8,000 to purchase site and erect a suitable building for our present Collegiate Institute. The year 1886 finds S. S. Clutton re-elected as Reeve, with a new feature in that Dr. Sinclair was elected as Deputy Reeve, that being the first time that the office of Deputy Reeve was known, with G. R. Christie, J. G. Campbell and J. L. Lambert, as Councillors. An electric light franchise was given in this year to Messrs. McDiarmid & Price. The village limits were extended and the conversion of the village into a town now took place. S. S. Clutton was elected the first Mayor in 1886. Dr. Sinclair, Reeve, M. Leeson, Deputy Reeve. Ward No. 1 elected J. H. Ingram, John Mero and Isaac W. Titus. No. 2 Ward—G. M. Smith, L. W. Pierce and J. Edgecombe. No. 3 Ward—J. W. Hutchinson, D. Davis and J. L. Lambert. The frontage assessment system was adopted this year. W. R. Hare was employed in August of this year as night watchman, and still holds the position. The waterworks were extended and the bridge over Cat Fish Creek built, together with four cedar block pavements. Further public school accommodation being required, the Board asked for \$1,700 to build and equip a new building, which was granted. The year 1888 finds Dr. Sinclair in the Mayor's chair, with M. Leeson as Reeve; G. M. Smith, Deputy Reeve; I. W. Titus, T. Wooster, J. G. Campbell, J. Edgecombe, D. Marshall, H. H. Wright, D. C. Davis, J. W. Hutchinson, and J. M. Huffman, as Councillors. In January, 1889, the most noticeable matter is that the whole council were elected by acclamation. J. W. Hutchinson, as Mayor; M. Leeson, as Reeve; J. L. Lambert, as Deputy Reeve; Councillors; J. H. Ingram, I. B. Huffman, L. B. McConnell, J. Edgecombe, R. H. Hemstreet, James Dingwall, J. M. Huffman, J. D. Ferguson and D. C. Davis, but the Reeve, M. Leeson, resigned, and his place was duly filled by G. M. Smith. Later on, L. B. McConnell, having resigned, owing to his removal from the town, M. Leeson was elected to fill the vacancy caused thereby. J. W. Hutchinson was re-elected as Mayor in 1890 by acclamation, as was also G. M. Smith for Reeve, and J. L. Lambert, Deputy Reeve. The election for

Councillors resulted as follows : I. B. Huffman, I. W. Titus, Oscar McKenney, R. H. Hemstreet, J. Edgecombe, J. J. Nairn, J. M. Huffman, D. C. Davis, and J. D. Ferguson. J. W. Hutchinson was re-elected by acclamation as Mayor : J. M. Huffman, as Reeve and James Edgecombe, as Deputy Reeve, for the year 1891. The Councillors were, Oscar McKenney, J. B. Hambidge, Charles Watson, E. Hankinson, J. J. Nairn, N. Burgess, G. F. Clark, J. M. Farthing, and L. J. Gundry. An addition to the pumping plant and a new Northy compound pump was placed at a cost of about \$4,000. The year 1892 brought out these candidates for Mayor, P. W. McLay and J. L. Lambert, the first named being elected. The contest for the Reeveship between M. Leeson and J. M. Huffman resulted in the election of Leeson by a majority of 16 votes, and equally close was the election between our present Mayor and C. Watson, for Deputy, the latter being elected by 6 votes. Councillors, O. McKenney, J. H. Ingram, John Mero, H. H. Wright, T. Wooster, E. Hankinson, G. A. Bingham, C. A. Price and James Turner. A hot contest is noted in the election of 1893, between M. Leeson and P. W. McLay, for Mayor, Leeson being elected by 9 votes, while Huffman defeated Watson for Reeve, and Oscar McKenney was elected Deputy Reeve by acclamation. Councillors, H. Sheldon, John Miller, F. H. Trim, T. Wooster, M. Connor, H. Wright, elected by acclamation. The fight in Ward 3 was awarded to G. A. Bingham, C. A. Price and James Turner. M. Leeson was re-elected in 1894 over P. W. McLay, as Mayor. J. M. Huffman and Oscar McKenney, as Reeve and Deputy Reeve by acclamation. Councillors, David Liddle, John Miller, Geo. Harp, N. Burgess, E. Draper and J. J. Nairn, by acclamation, and an election in No. 3 Ward resulted in the choice of J. McNally, C. A. Price and James Turner. The first mention of the present Clerk, Junius Bradley was at this time, he being elected an auditor in company with Andrew Murray. The date of the death of Mr. W. A. Glover was Dec. 1st, 1894, after having served the town in the capacity of Clerk since the 21st Jan., 1878. J. M. Huffman was elected Mayor in the year 1895 by acclamation. Oscar McKenney defeating Chas. Watson for the Reeveship. J. J. Nairn defeating J. L. Lambert for Deputy Reeve. Councillors, D. Liddle, H. O'Brien, W. R. White, Dr. Kingston, Elijah Draper, Eber Kinsey, A. W. Pierce, Martin Harris and C. D. Fuller. In February of this year the present Clerk, Junius Bradley, was appointed, he having resigned as Auditor. The present efficient Mayor, J. J. Nairn, was elected in a contest with J. M. Huffman, to fill the chair in 1896, with Oscar McKenney and D.

Liddle, as Reeve and Deputy Reeve, respectively. Councillors by acclamation, the persons being, G. A. Bingham, J. G. Campbell, H. O'Brien, J. J. Kingston, W. B. Purdy, J. G. Kaiser, M. Harris, C. D. Fuller, and A. W. Pierce. A new system of collecting taxes was instituted this year, a collection being made twice instead of once a year, which has given general satisfaction. The present year shows that J. J. Nairn was again elected as Mayor over C. Watson. His municipal career commenced as councillor for No. 2 Ward, and he was then elected Deputy Reeve and Reeve in succession, and has sat as Mayor for the years 1896 and 1897. David Liddle was elected by acclamation as Reeve. John Miller defeated Martin Harris for Deputy Reeveship. Councillors: M. Leeson, Archie Poustie, Eber Kinsey, L. A. Brown, Thomas Hammond, James W. Allen, Robinson Dawson and J. H. Glover. James W. Allen immediately resigned, and an election between J. M. Huffman and Wm. Livingstone was given to J. M. Huffman. The oldest official of the town is the collector, J. A. McCausland, who has served the town as Bailiff and Collector for twenty years. The next is the accommodating and painstaking Treasurer, W. Warnock, and next is Alex. Milne, a most efficient official in every way. His offices are town bailiff, town engineer, caretaker and chief of police. James Cann, the present Assessor, was appointed in 1895, and has proved a careful and conscientious official; and lastly, the Clerk, Junius Bradley, a careful and accommodating official, who has had considerable experience in municipal matters, having been for a number of years associated with the late T. M. Nairn, who was an authority on this subject.

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Newspapers Aylmer has two first-class weekly newspapers, which receive the hearty support of the general public and business men. They will compare most favorably with the papers of any other town in Canada. THE EXPRESS is published every Thursday by E. C. Monteith & Co. It is a twelve-page paper, independent in politics, devoting attention chiefly to matters of home and local interests, while giving some attention to foreign and general news. The Sun is published on Thursday also, by G. M. Standing & Co. It is an eight-page paper, a supporter of the Liberal party in politics, and is devoted largely to local news, and general reading.

Fraternal Societies

Aylmer is without doubt, a society town, and there are not many good societies or lodges that are not represented here. Besides a large Sick Benefit Fund, and a large amount of insurance in straight line companies, the total amount of life insurance carried by societies in Aylmer amounts to the enormous sum of \$811,000. Many widows have been benefitted in the past, and many wives and mothers, who may some day be left without a supporter, will live to bless these societies. The Societies represented in Aylmer are as follows :

Name			When Instituted.	Present Membership.
Aylmer Lodge,	No. 94	I.O.O.F.	1872	159
Court Elgin,	No. 20	I.O.F.	1883	128
Aylmer Lodge,	No. 6	A.O.U.W.	1879	97
Court Aylmer,	No. 300	C.O.F.	1891	87
Malahide Lodge	No. 140	A.F. & A.M.	1861	83
Prince Albert Lodge,	No. 61	S.O.E.	1888	79
Aylmer Tent,	No. 9	K.O.T.M.	1892	60
Camp Aylmer,	No. 80	W.O.W.	1896	58
Aylmer Encampment,	No. 42	I.O.O.F.	1879	55
Aylmer Lodge,	No. 423	L.O.L.	1890	54
Aylmer Chapter,	No. 81	A.F. & A.M.	1878	50
Aylmer Circle,	No. 22	O.C.H.C.	1885	42
Michael Council,	No. 203	R.T. of T.	1885	40
Court Surprise,	No. 8412	A.O.F.	1896	38
Maple Leaf Lodge,	No. 31	D. of E.	1894	26
Advance Council,	No. 15	C.O.C.F.	1888	19

One of the permanent institutions of the town is the Malahide and Aylmer Fair Association. Exhibitions are given every fall at Recreation Park, where there is a fine race track, grand stand, crystal palace, and other buildings; also football, baseball, and other sporting grounds.

Fire Protection

The system of waterworks is perfect, and quite ample for the needs of the place. The town is piped in every direction, an inexhaustible supply of water for fire and lawn purposes being drawn from the creek. Two pumps, one a Worthington, with a capacity of 750,000 gallons per day and the other a Northy compound, with a capacity of 1,250,000 gallons per day. They are in charge of Engineer Alex. Milne and steam is kept up continuously night and day. Mr. T. H. Collins, chief of the fire department, has got together a very efficient lot of men, who on more than one occasion have shown great coolness and bravery, and saved the town from destructive fires. They have a good equipment to work with, and never fail. A good comfortable reading room in the fire hall, where games and other amusements are provided, is a feature of the organization.

★ ★ ★

Banking &c.

The banking facilities of this place could not be better. There are two chartered, and two private banks. The former are The Molsons Bank, with Mr. H. A. Ambridge, as Manager, and The Traders Bank, managed by Mr. H. P. McMahon. Both private banks are among the strongest in the country, and are conducted by men who have justly earned the respect, and entire confidence of the whole community, viz., Mr. W. E. Murray, who is now in his 88th year, a most remarkable man, still bright and active, and at the bank every day. Mr. A. A. Leslie is the popular manager of the bank, and is assisted by Mr. Lorne Murray. Mr. William Warnock is the other private banker, and his office is one of the most elegantly fitted up business places in Ontario. He is one of our most progressive and prominent citizens. The medical profession is represented here by Drs. G. F. Clarke, J. J. Kingston, C. W. Marlatt, P. W. McLay, C. Sinclair, F. W. Smith and J. H. G. Youell. The legal firms are Messrs. Crawford & Crawford, A. E. Haines, Miller & Backhouse, and W. E. Stevens.

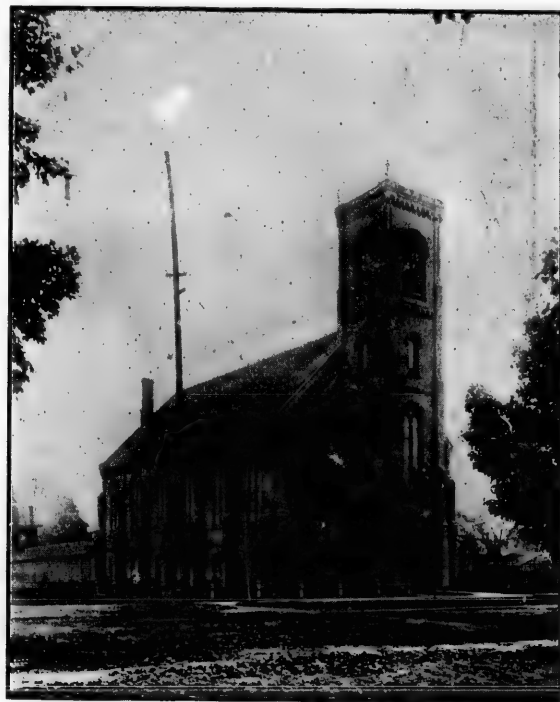
THE STOTT POWER CO.,
PUBLISHERS.



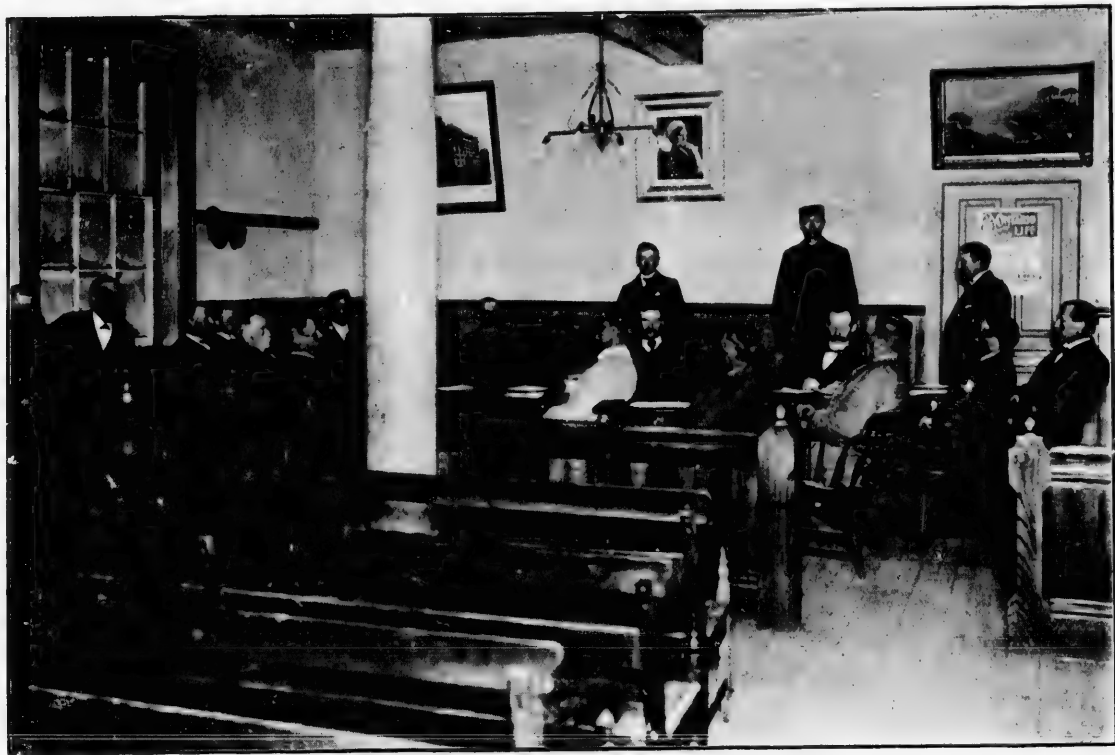
TALBOT STREET, LOOKING EAST FROM JOHN STREET.



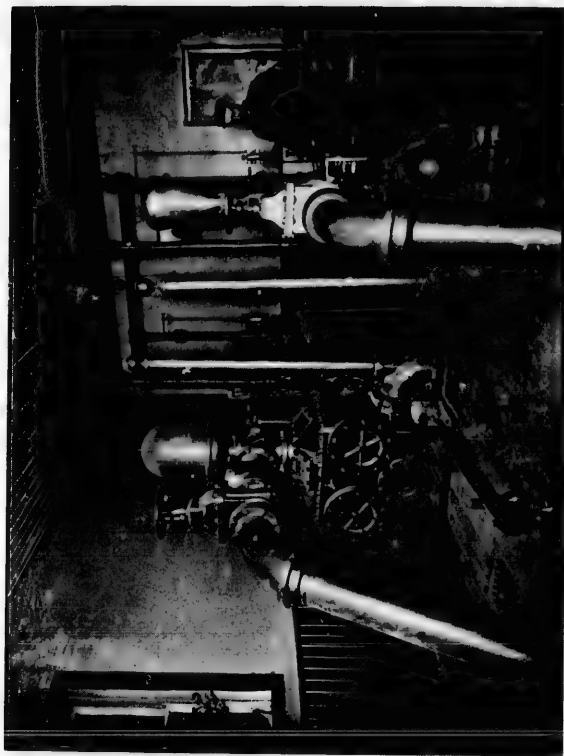
TOWN HALL.



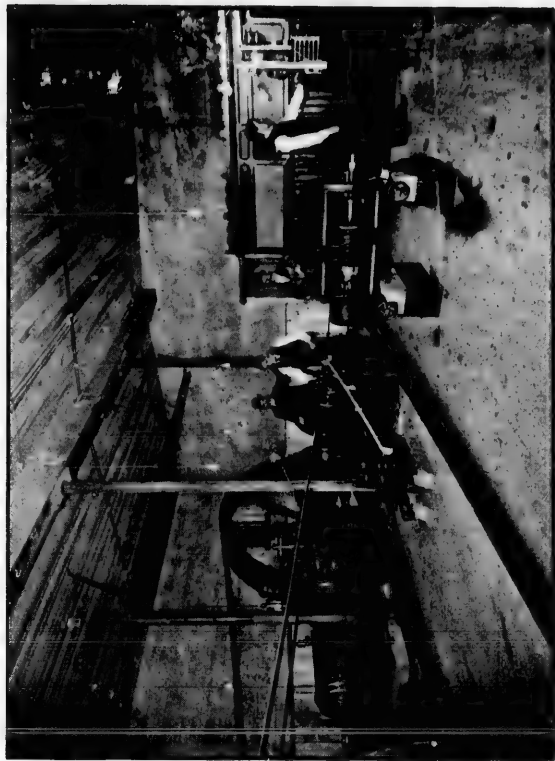
BAPTIST CHURCH.



AYLMER COUNCIL BOARD, 1897.



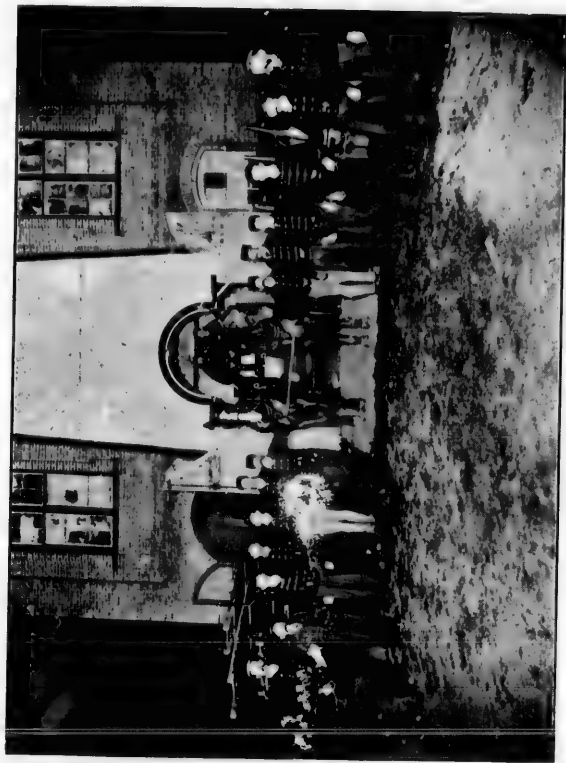
WATERWORKS PUMP HOUSE



PLANT OF AYLMER ELECTRIC AND MFG. CO.



PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS.



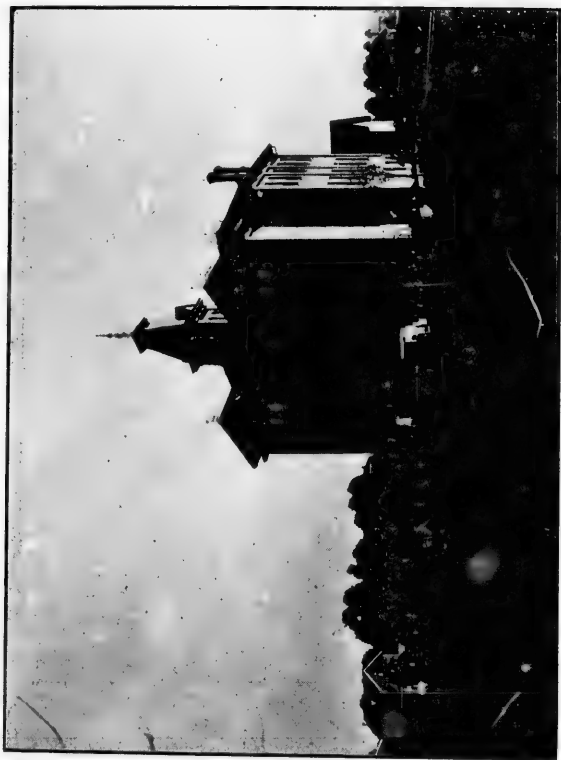
FIRE BRIGADE.



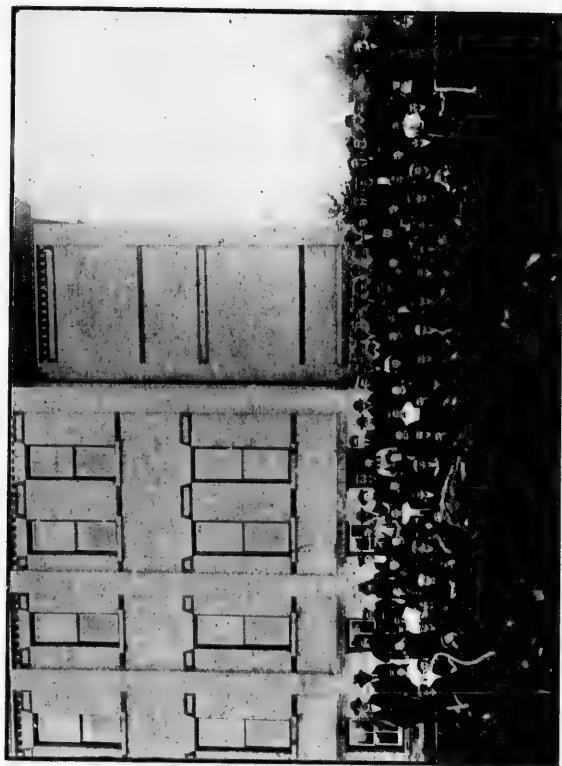
G. T. R. STATION.



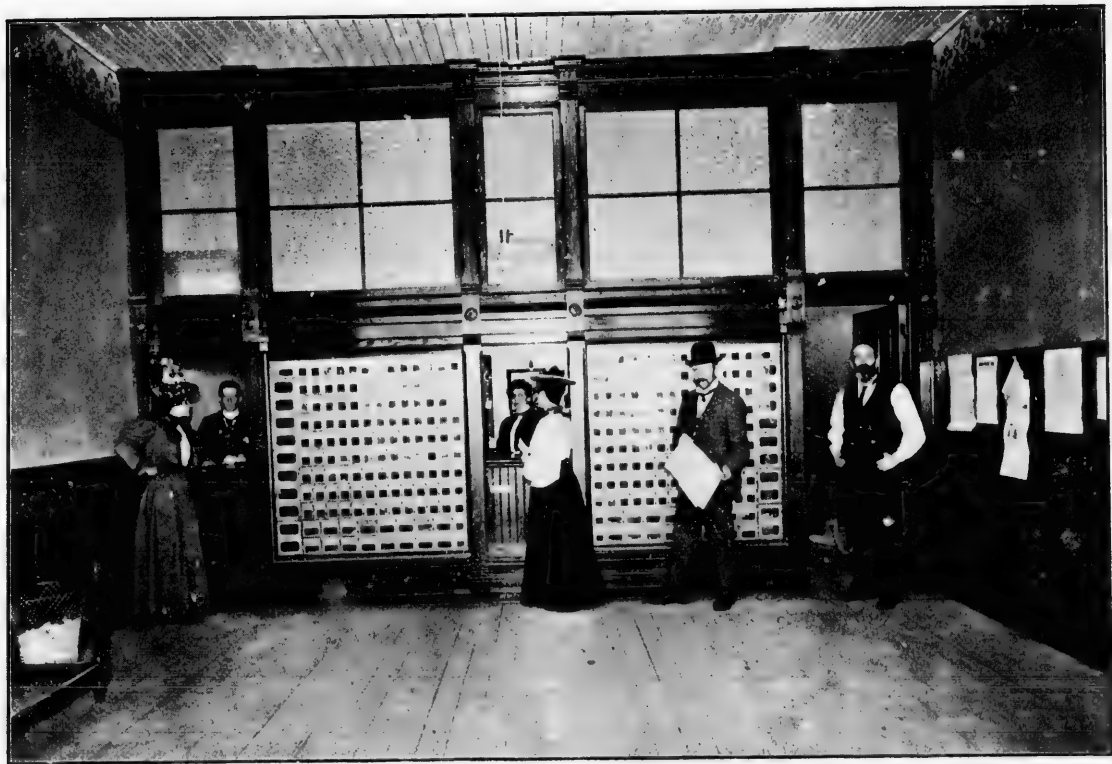
PROCESS ROOM OF THE AYLMER CANNING FACTORY.



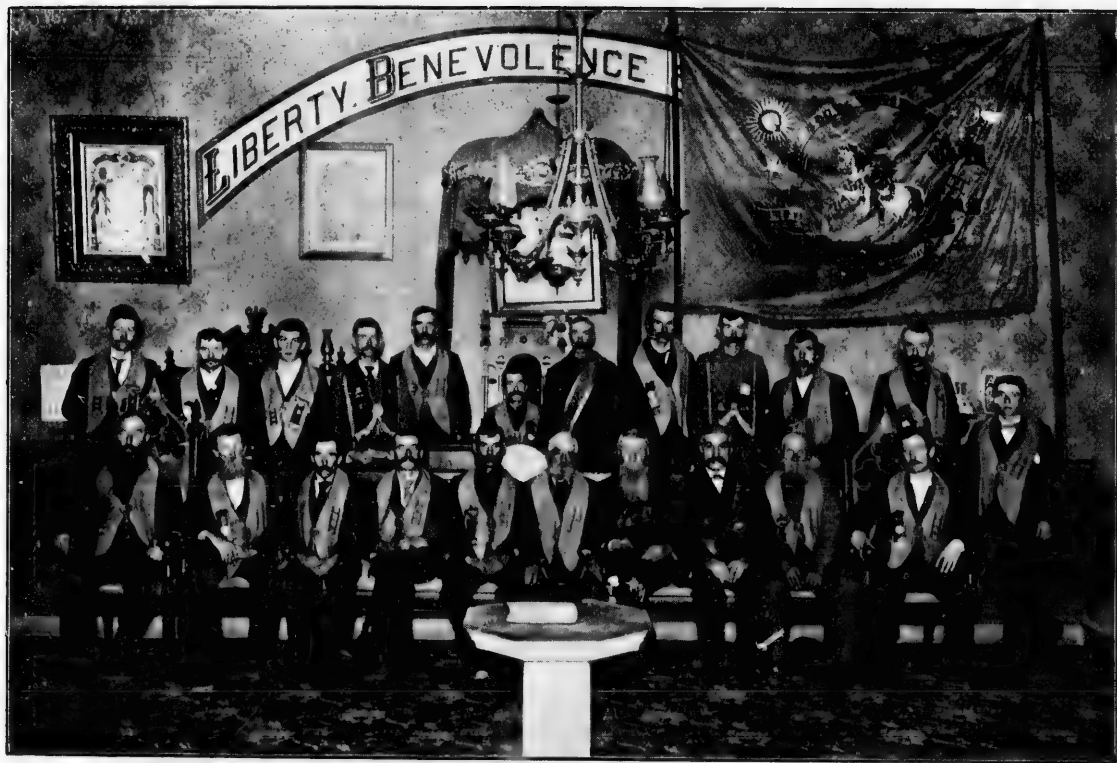
COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.



PUPILS OF COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.



POST OFFICE.



LOYAL ORANGE LODGE NO. 423.



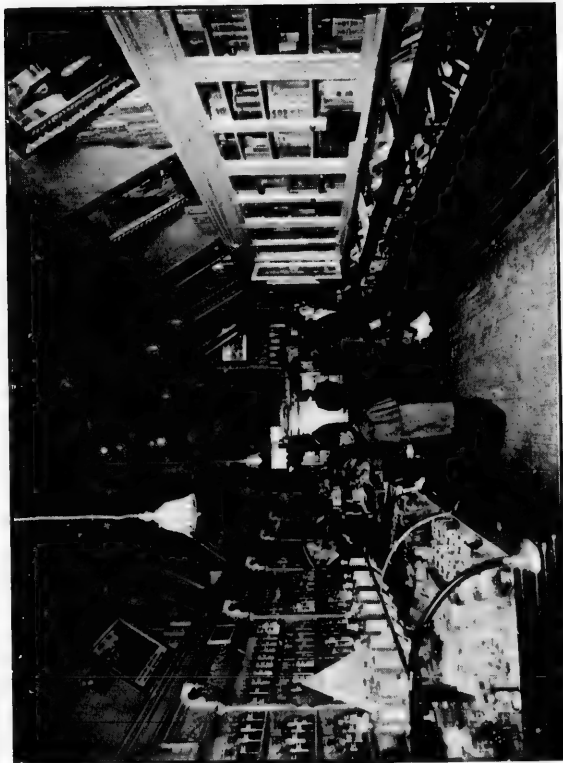
RESIDENCE OF J. CRAWFORD.



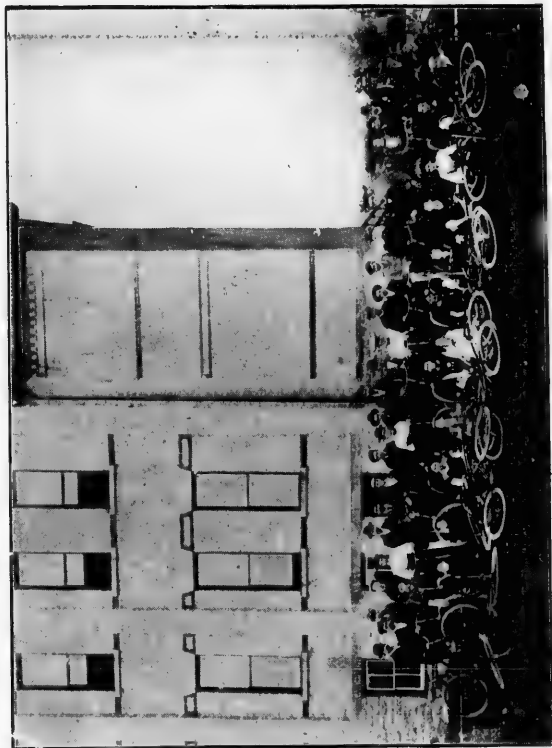
EXTERIOR OF J. E. RICHARDS' DRUG STORE.



DRUG STORE.



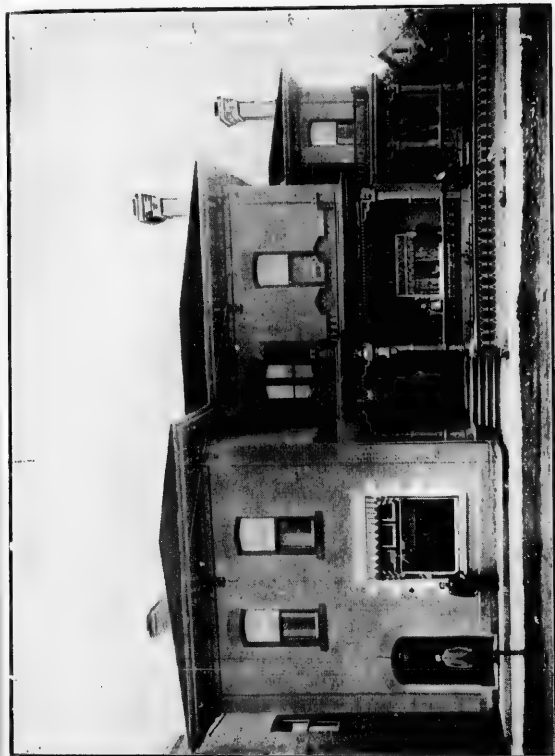
INTERIOR OF J. E. RICHARDS' DRUG STORE.



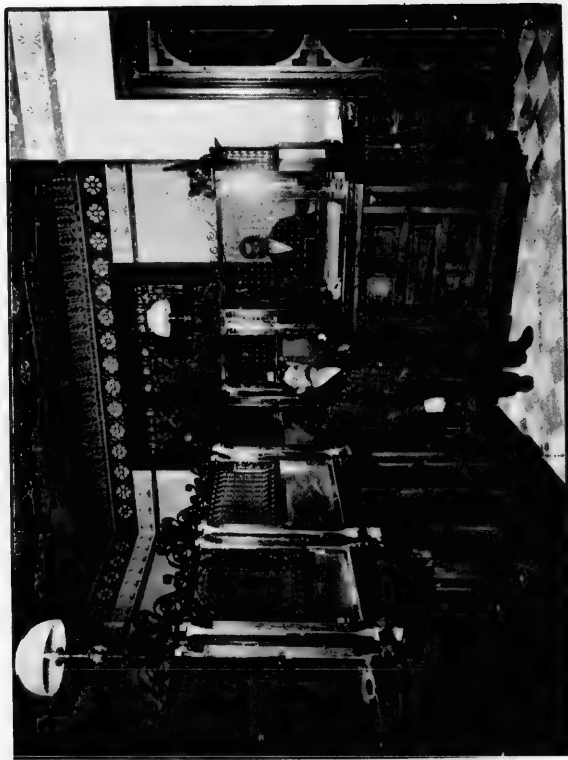
AYLMER BICYCLE CLUB.



AYLMER LODGE NO. 94, I. O. O. F.



RESIDENCE OF W. WARNOCK.



W. WARNOCK'S BANK.



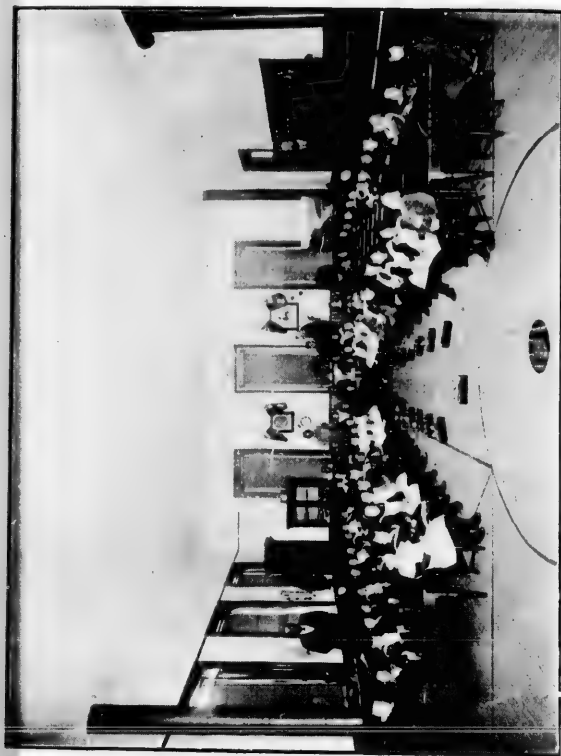
MALAHIDE LODGE NO. 140, A. F. AND A. M.



AYLMER CHAPTER NO. 81, ROYAL ARCH MASONS.



DEPARTMENTAL STORE OF POUSTIE, STEWART & BURGESS.



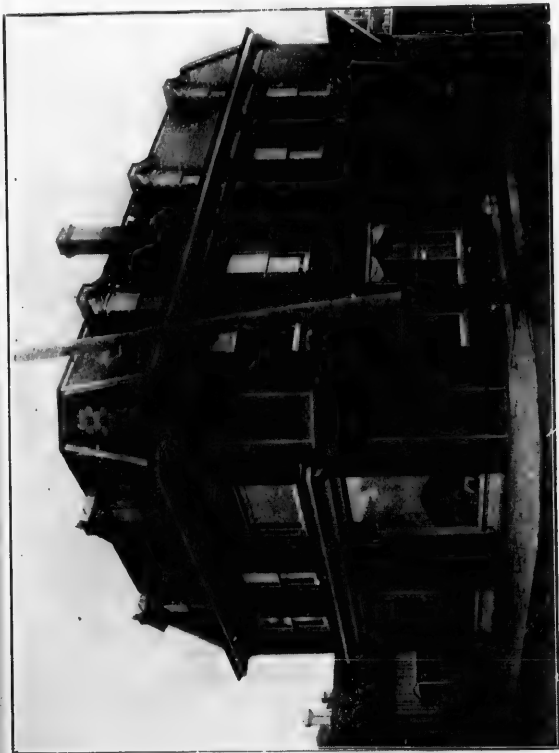
KINDERGARTEN ROOM, PUBLIC SCHOOL.



RECREATION PARK.



I. O. O. F. BAND.



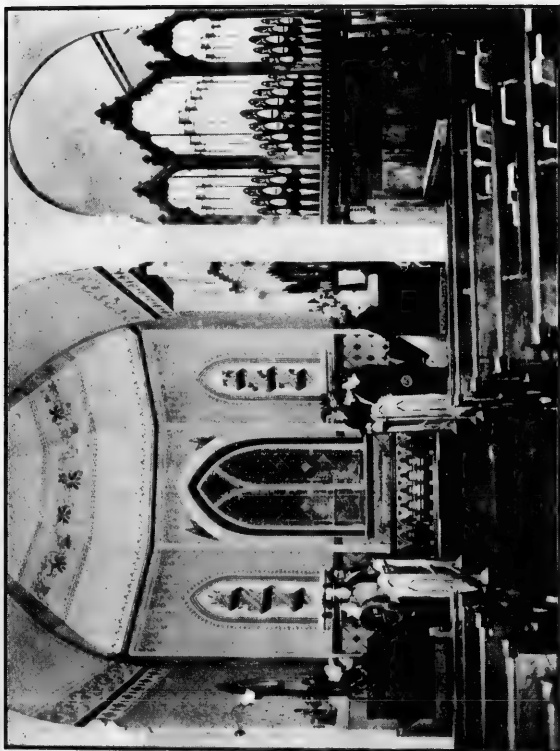
CHARLTON'S PHOTOGRAPH GALLERY.



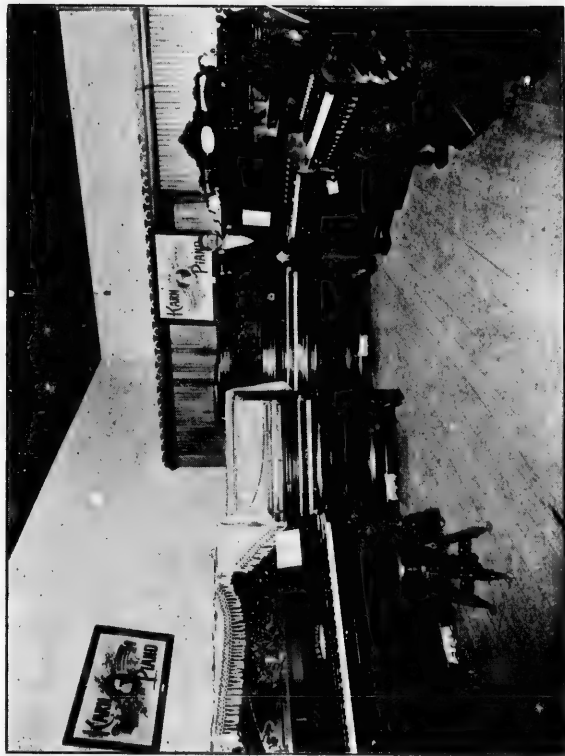
AYLMER IRON WORKS.



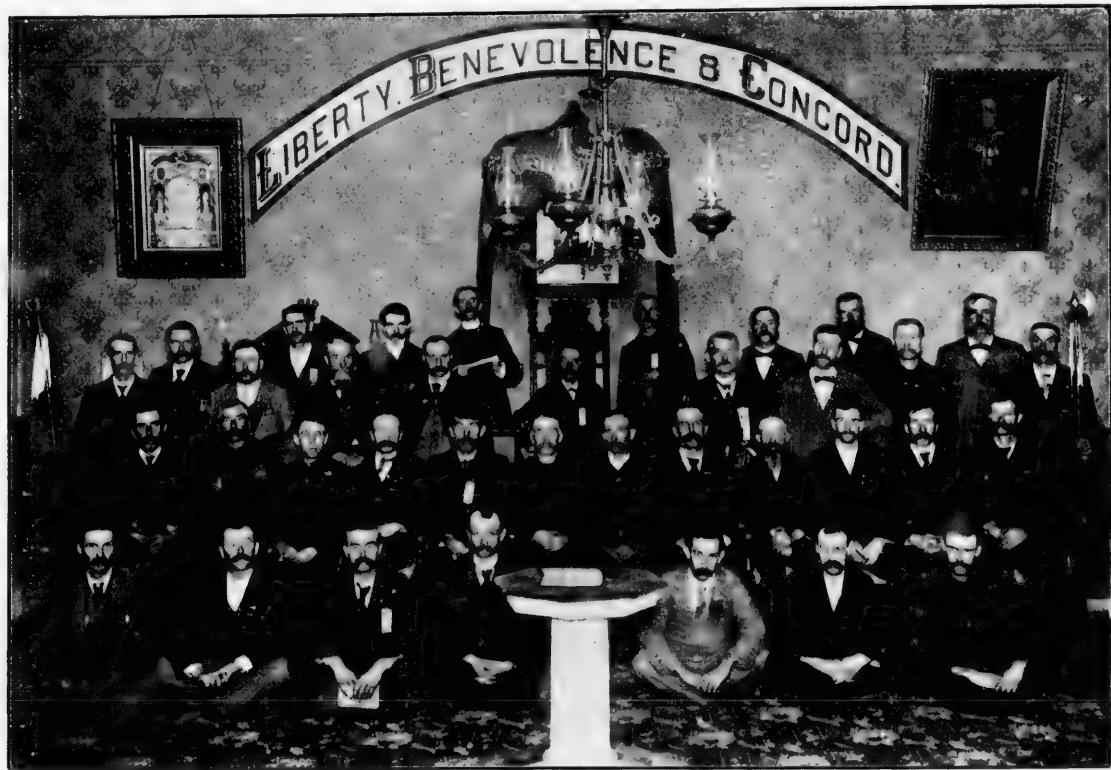
3 FARTHING'S DRY GOODS STORE.



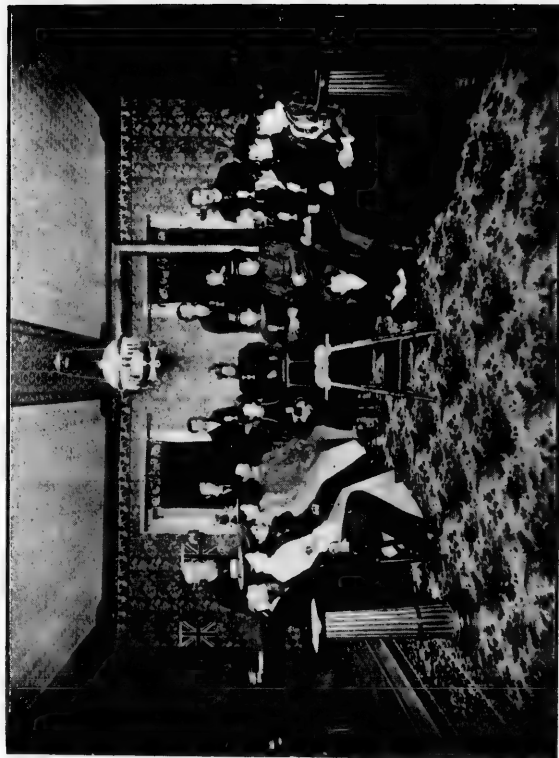
TRINITY CHURCH.



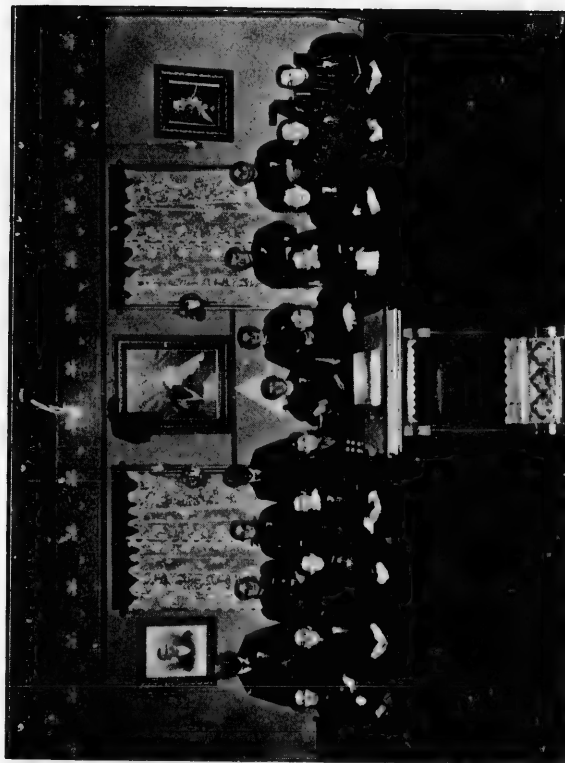
E. L. BROWN'S PIANO WAREROOMS.



COURT ELGIN NO. 29, INDEPENDENT ORDER OF FORESTERS.



MICHAEL COUNCIL, NO. 203, R. T. OF T.



MAPLE LEAF LODGE, NO. 31, DAUGHTERS OF ENGLAND.



YOU'ELL & WRONG'S DRY GOODS STORE.



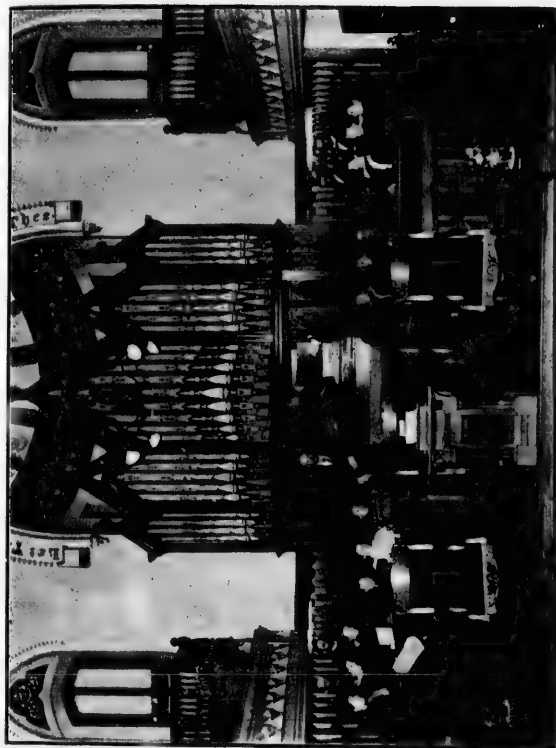
AYLMER PORK PACKING HOUSE.



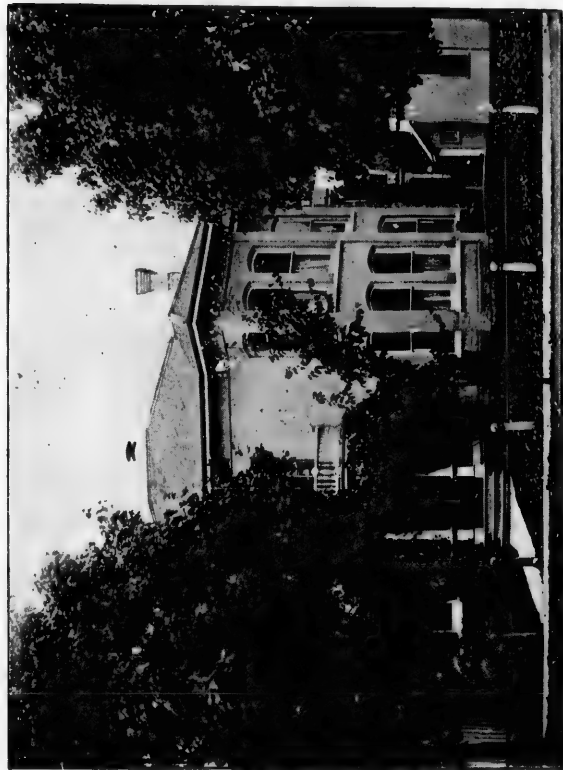
PIERCE'S ROLLER MILLS.



THE PALACE GROCERY - STANLEY BARRETT, PROP.



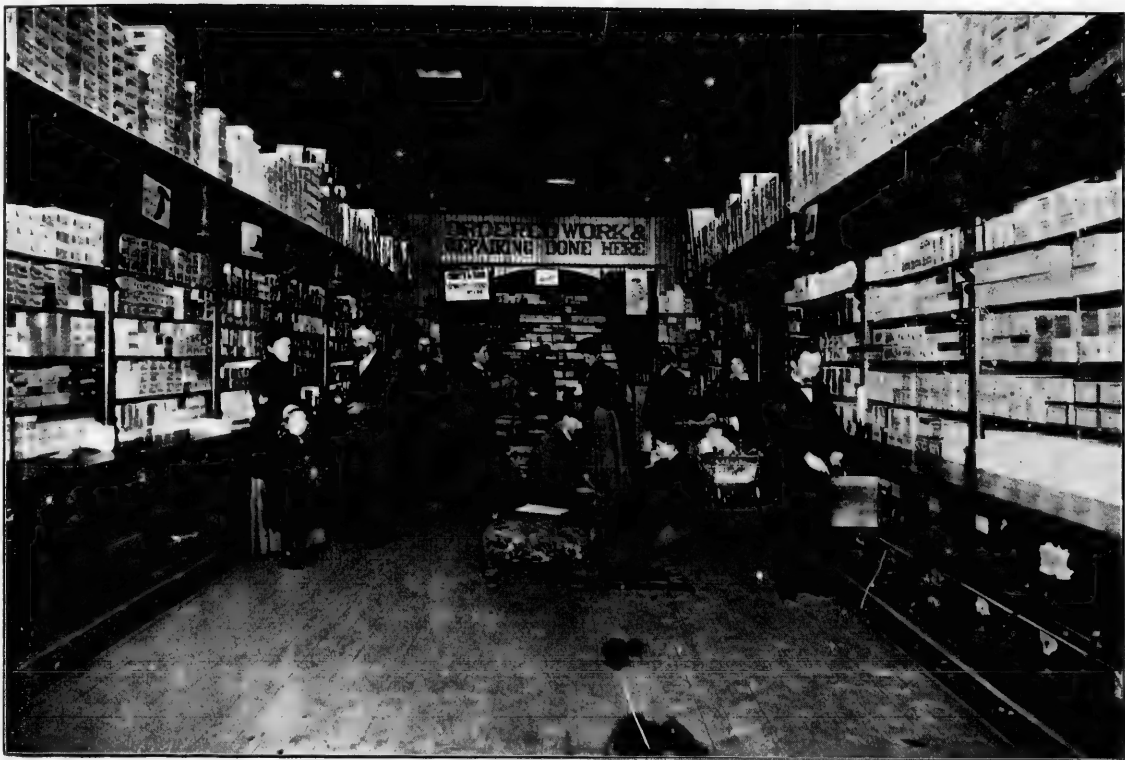
METHODIST CHURCH CHOIR.



RESIDENCE OF DR. J. J. KINGSTON.



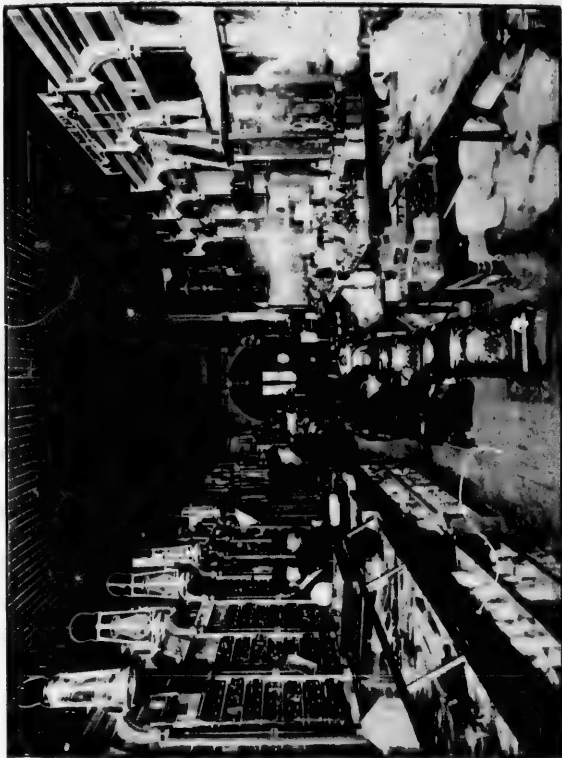
CHRISTIE & CARON'S GENTS' FURNISHING STORE.



CHRISTIE & CARON'S BOOT AND SHOE STORE.



R. G. MOORE'S GROCERY.



CONN'S FAIR.



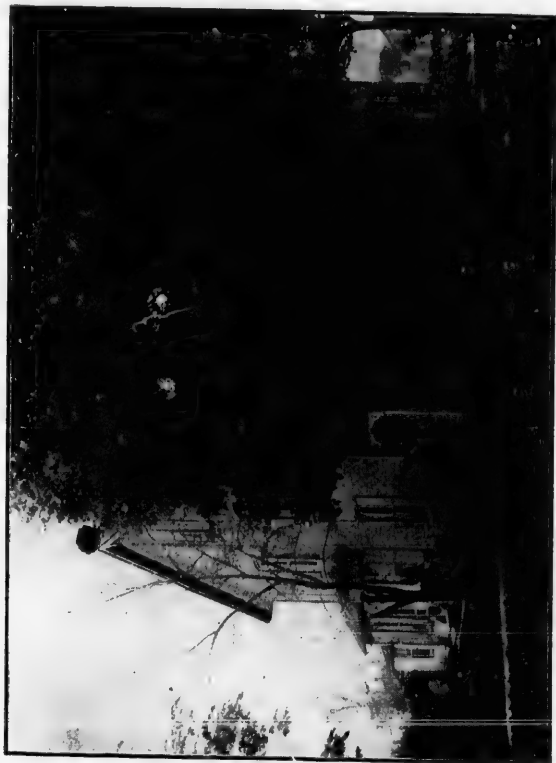
RESIDENCE OF W. CONN.



COURT AYLMER NO. 309, CANADIAN ORDER OF FORESTERS.



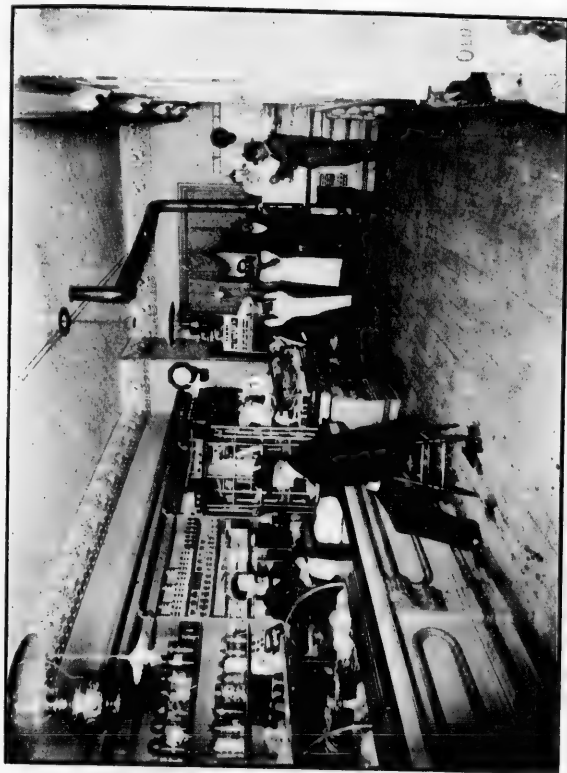
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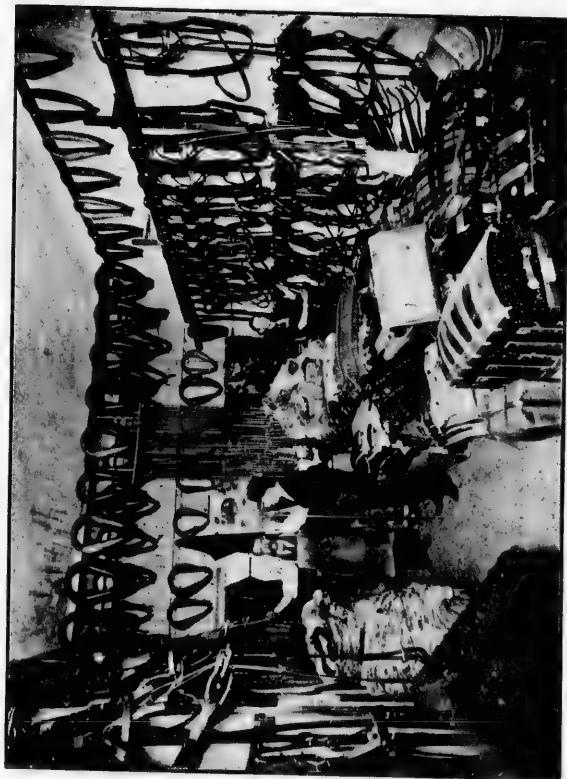
RESIDENCE OF DR. F. W. SMITH.



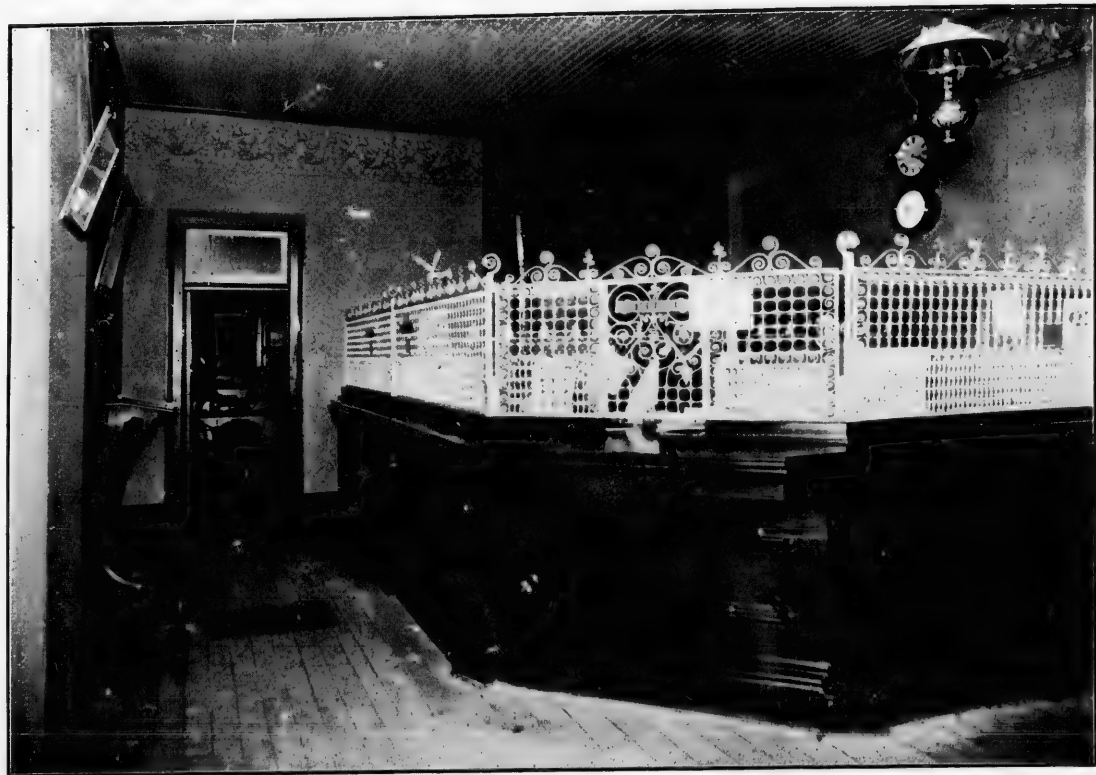
AYLMER EXPRESS PRINTING HOUSE.



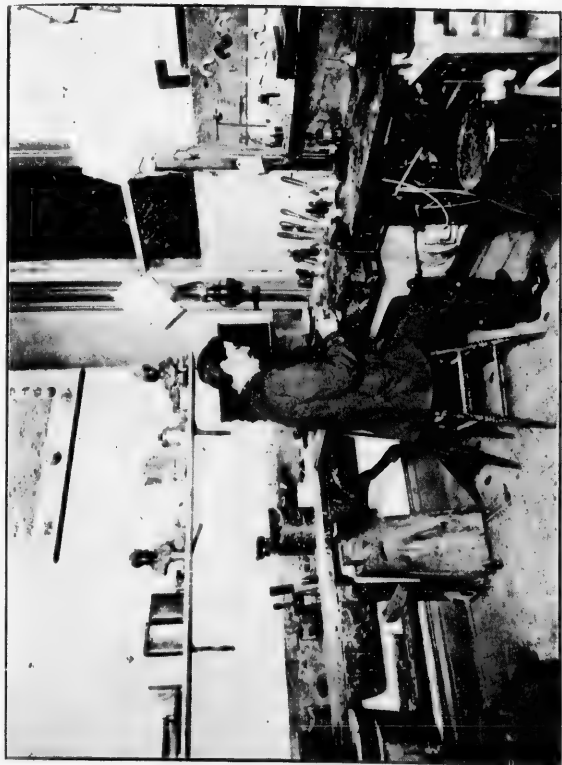
F. A. TUFFORD'S CONFECTIONERY STORE.



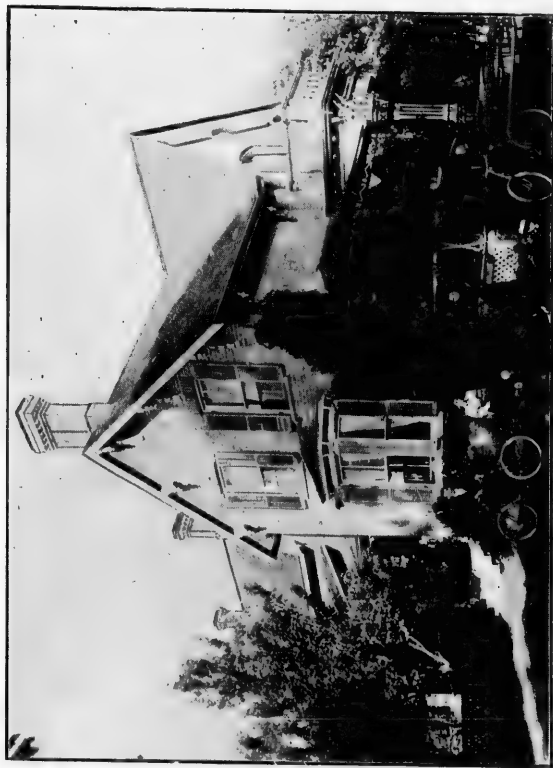
W. BUCHANAN'S HARNESS SHOP.



TRADERS BANK.



LABORATORY OF J. R. WOODS, L. D. S.



RESIDENCE OF MRS. ARKELL.



DRY GOODS HOUSE OF SIMPSON & CASE.



MURRAY'S BANK.



WHITE DRUG STORE—E. A. CAUGHELL, PROPRIETOR.



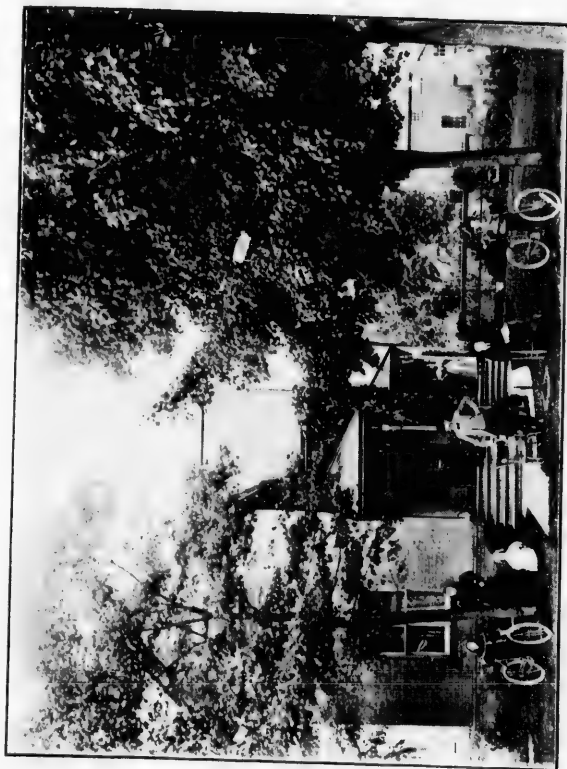
A. A. LESLIE'S SWISS COTTAGE, OCCUPIED BY E. DAVIS



SITTING ROOM, E. C. MONTEITH'S RESIDENCE.



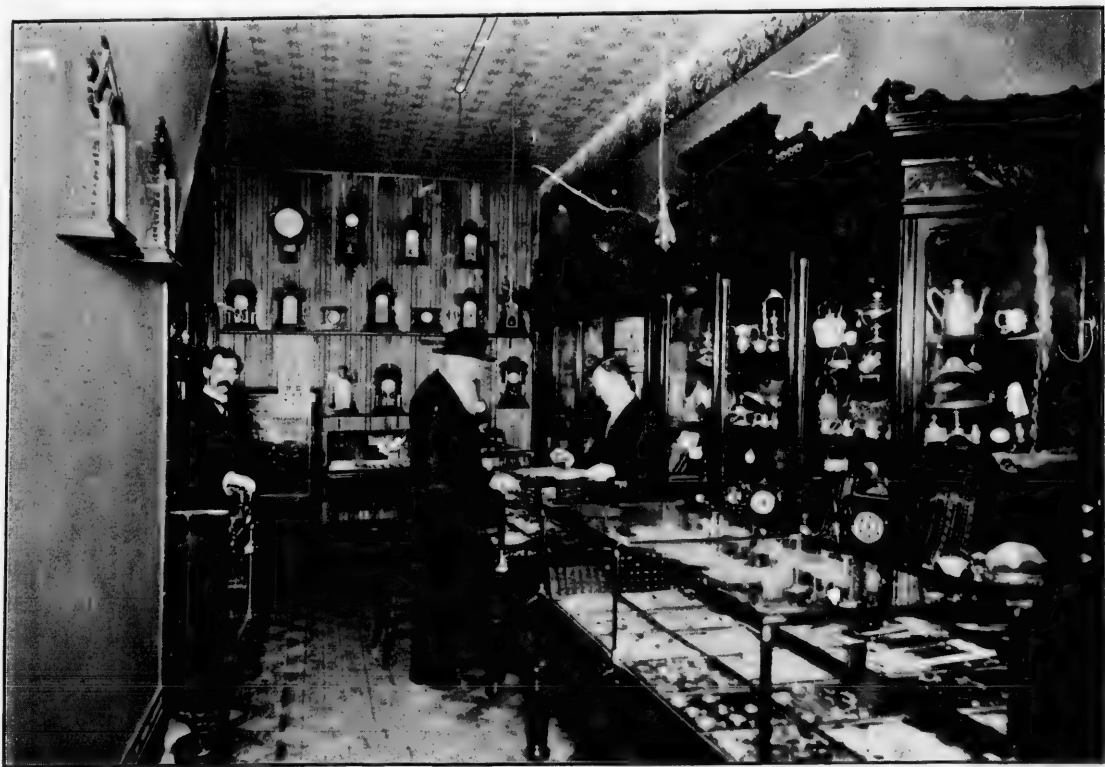
AYLMER TENT, NO. 9, KNIGHTS OF THE MACCABEES.



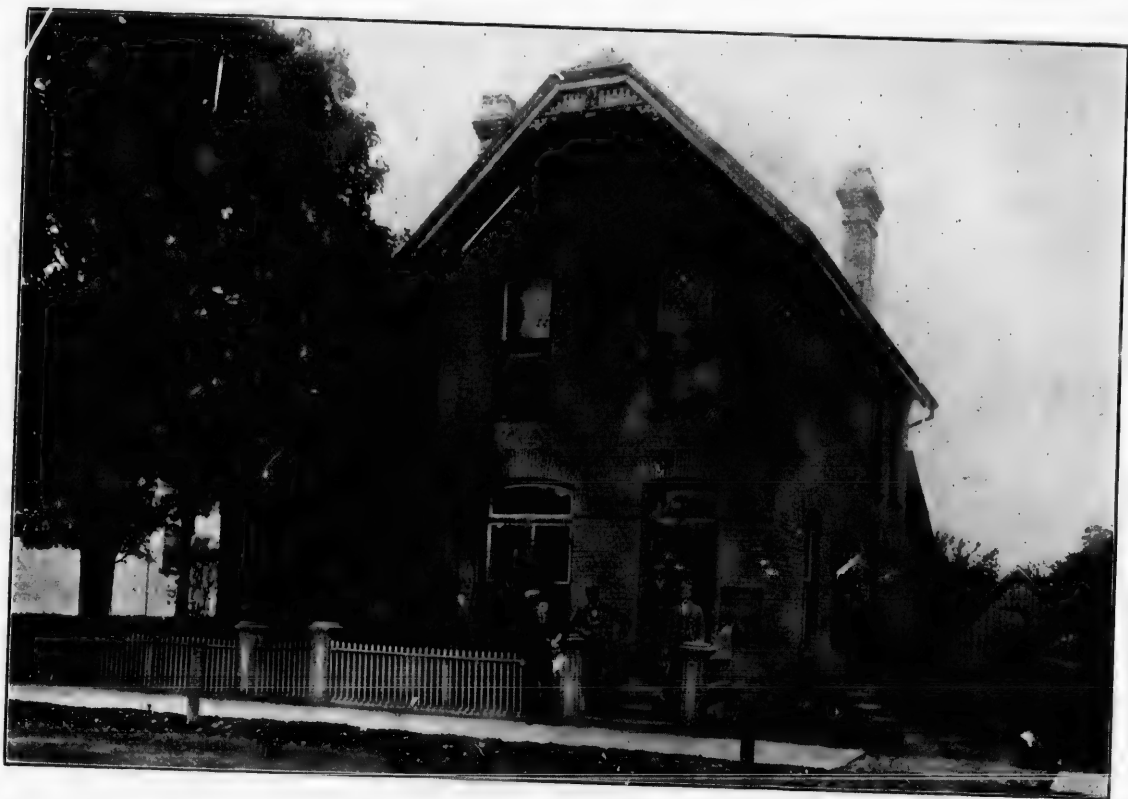
RESIDENCE OF W. J. FEAR, L. D. S.



RESIDENCE OF H. H. McIARMID.



JEWELRY STORE OF J. H. WALKER.



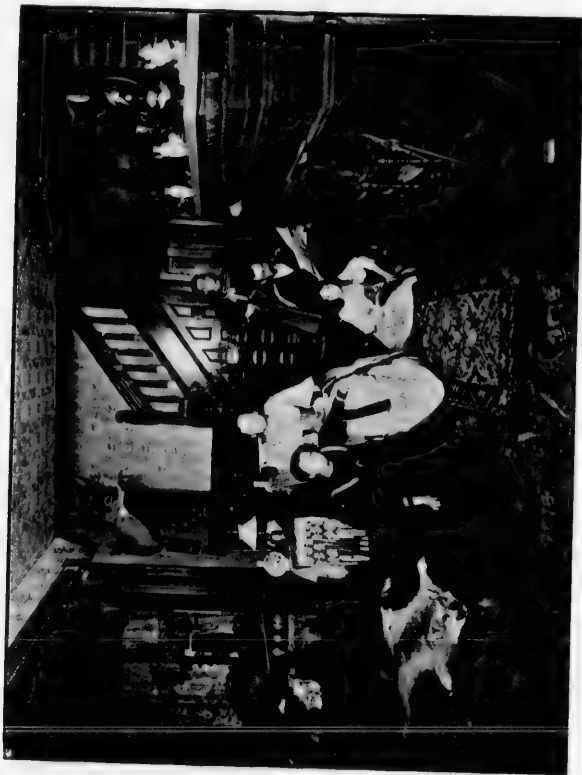
MOLSON'S BANK.



J. H. GLOVER'S HARDWARE STORE.



RESIDENCE OF A. H. BACKUS.



RECEPTION HALL OF D. H. PRICE'S RESIDENCE.



DEPARTMENTAL STORE OF THE N. P. FINCH CO.



AYLMER SUN PRINTING OFFICE.



A. J. ANDERSON'S FURNITURE STORE.



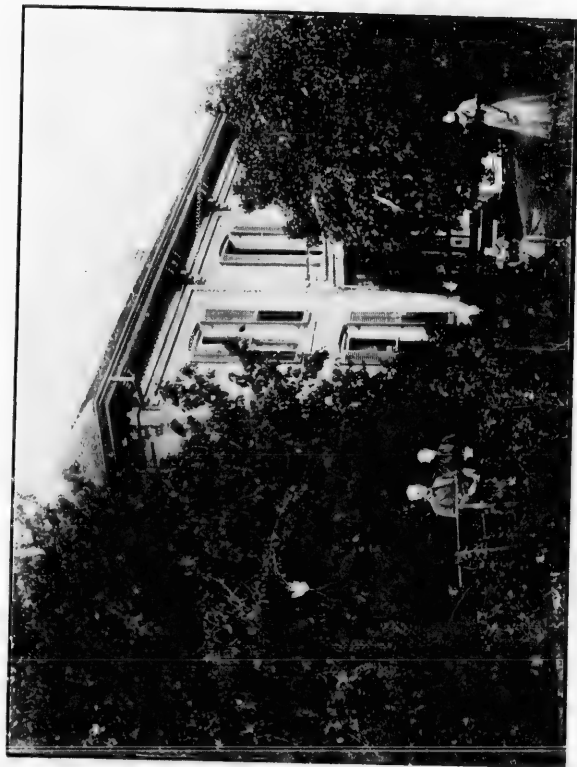
RESIDENCE OF C. O. LEARN.



RESIDENCE OF GEO. W. COPELAND.



F. C. FREEMANTLE'S BAKERY AND CONFECTIONERY.



RESIDENCE OF A. MURRAY.



RESIDENCE OF E. M'CAUSLAND.



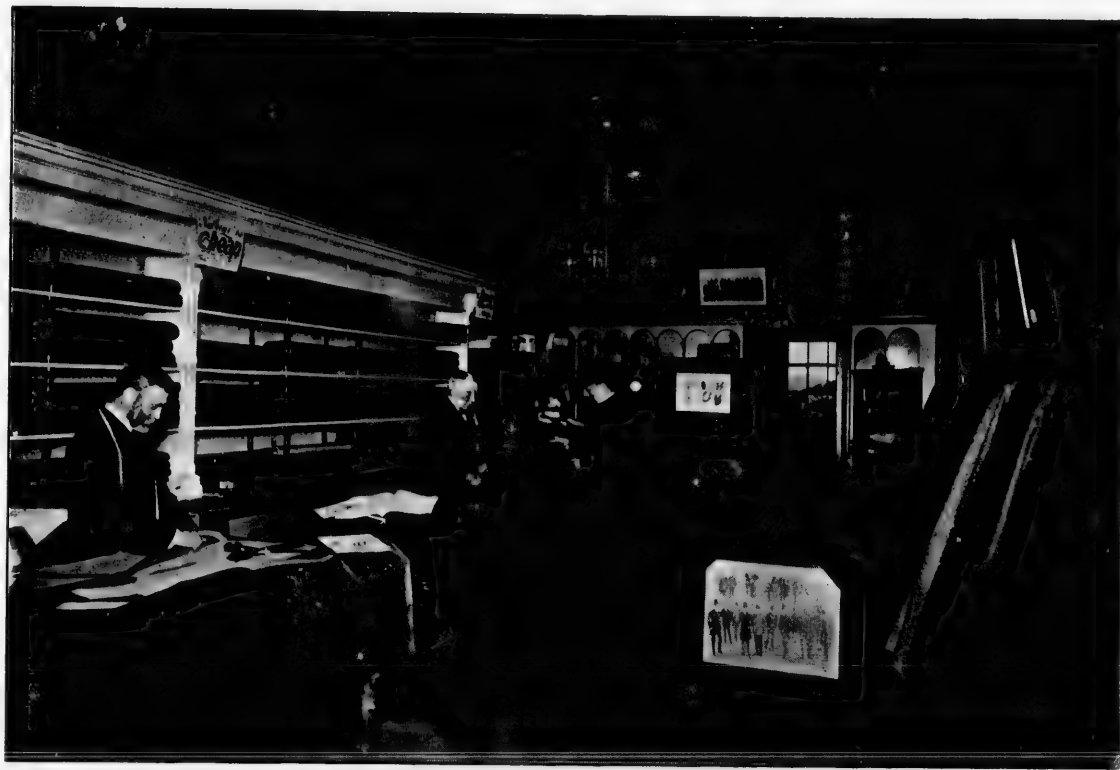
RED STAR GROCERY- J. G. HETTEL, PROPRIETOR.



C. J. GUNDRY & CO.'S BOOK AND JEWELRY STORE.



PRINCE ALBERT LODGE NO. 61, SONS OF ENGLAND.



DORLING & SON, MERCHANT TAILORS.



WRIGHT & ALLEN'S HARDWARE AND TINWARE STORE.



COURT SURPRISE, NO. 8412, ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS.



CRONK & RUSLING'S BOOT AND SHOE STORE.



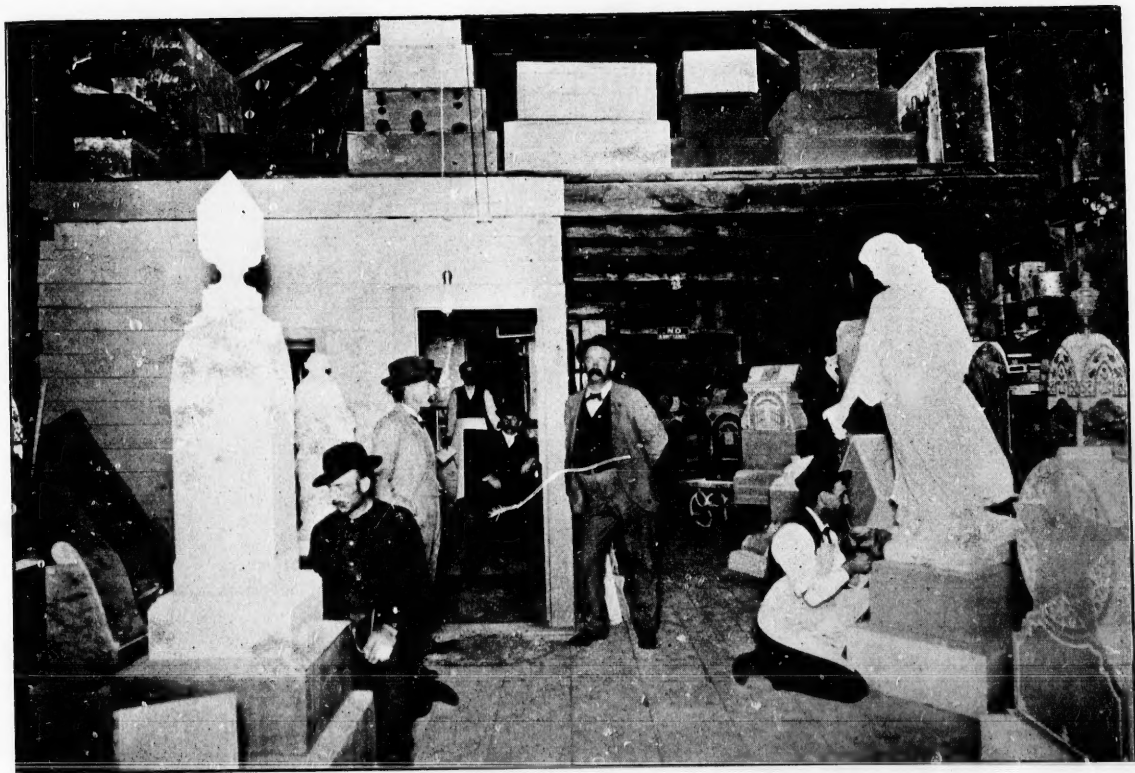
AYLMER JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB.



GOLD RING. (2:12) THE GUINNESS MOUNTAIN.



CHINA T HOUSE--YOUNG & CAVEN PROPRIETORS.



MARBLE WORKS OF HUTCHINSON & THOMSON.



TIBBITTS & SON'S GROCERY.



